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## **RHODE ISLAND MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO CONSPIRING TO COMMIT ACTS OF TERRORISM TO SUPPORT ISIL**

WASHINGTON – Nicholas Alexander Rovinski a/k/a Nuh Amriki a/k/a Nuh Andalusi, 25, of Warwick, Rhode Island, pleaded guilty to conspiring with David Daoud Wright and Usaamah Abdullah Rahim (now deceased) to provide material support to the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), a designated foreign terrorist organization, and conspiracy to commit acts of terrorism transcending national boundaries. U.S. District Court Judge William G. Young scheduled sentencing for March 23, 2017.

The announcement was made by Assistant Attorney General for National Security John P. Carlin, U.S. Attorney Carmen M. Ortiz for the District of Massachusetts and Special Agent in Charge Harold H. Shaw of the FBI's Boston Field Office.

Rovinski and Wright were charged with conspiring with each other, known and unknown conspirators, and Rahim, Wright's uncle, to provide material support to ISIL and commit acts of terrorism that transcended national boundaries. On June 2, 2015, Rahim was shot and killed after he confronted and threatened law enforcement officers in Roslindale, Massachusetts. Wright remains in custody pending trial.

At today's hearing, Rovinski admitted among other things, that beginning in December 2014, he began talking with Wright about their mutual desire to support ISIL and how they could provide assistance to that terrorist organization. By April 2015, Rovinski, Wright, and Rahim had agreed to commit attacks and kill persons inside the U.S. – acts which they believed would support ISIL's objectives. Their attack plans included beheading a New York woman who ISIL had identified for murder through a "fatwah" or religious decree, to its supporters.

In May 2015, Junaid Hussain, an ISIL member in Syria (who is now deceased), had directly communicated instructions to Rahim regarding the murder of the New York victim, in which the three men were to play a critical role. On June 2, 2015, Rahim confided in Wright that he could not wait until July 4, 2015, as originally planned, to go after their target, and instead wanted to go operational that day. Rahim told Wright that he wanted to go after the “boys in blue” (a slang term used to describe police officers) in Massachusetts, and Wright encouraged Rahim to attack police and become a martyr. Less than two hours after that call, Rahim was shot and killed during an armed confrontation with law enforcement officers.

On June 11, 2015, Rovinski was arrested for conspiring to provide material support to ISIL but his arrest did not deter his commitment to ISIL. Even after being arrested, Rovinski sought to continue the attacks he had planned with Wright and Rahim, writing letters to Wright from prison discussing ways to take down the U.S. government and decapitate non-believers.

The charge of conspiracy to provide material support to a designated foreign terrorist organization carries a maximum sentence of 20 years in prison, a lifetime of supervised release and a fine of \$250,000. The charge of conspiracy to commit acts of terrorism transcending national boundaries in which the defendant intended to kill or maim persons in the U.S. carries a maximum sentence of life in prison, a lifetime of supervised release and a fine of \$250,000.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney B. Stephanie Siegmann of the District of Massachusetts and Trial Attorney Gregory R. Gonzalez of the National Security Division’s Counterterrorism Section.

This investigation was conducted by the FBI’s Boston-led Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF) and the FBI’s Rhode Island-led JTTF with critical assistance from the Boston Police Department, the Boston Regional Intelligence Center, the Massachusetts State Police, the Commonwealth Fusion Center, the Everett Police Department, Homeland Security Investigations, Rhode Island State Police, the Warwick Rhode Island Police Department, the Rhode Island Fusion Center, the Naval Criminal Investigative Service and member agencies of the JTTF.

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